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10 Attorney for Defendant
11 HANNAH GILES

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JUAN CARLOS VERA
Plaintiff,
v.

JAMES O'KEEFE III, an individual
HANNAH GILES, an individual, and
DOES 1-20 inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. CV 10-1422-L-JMA
Hon. M. James Lorenz

ANSWER TO COMPLAINT

1 Defendant Hannah Giles (“Defendant”) hereby answers the Complaint filed
2 by Juan Carlos Vera (“Plaintiff”) as follows:

3 1. Paragraph 1 is a statement of plaintiff’s legal position or contentions,
4 to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a response is required,
5 Defendant Giles admits that there is complete diversity among the parties but
6 denies that there is in excess of \$75,000 in controversy.

7 2. Paragraph 2 is a statement of plaintiff’s legal position or contentions,
8 to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a response is required,
9 Defendant Giles states that venue appears to be proper in this judicial district.

10 3. Defendant Giles lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the
11 truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph 3 and on that basis, denies the
12 allegations.

13 4. Defendant Giles lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the
14 truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph 4 and on that basis, denies the
15 allegations.

16 5. The allegations set forth in paragraph 5 are admitted on Defendant
17 Giles’ information and belief.

18 6. Defendant Giles states that, as of the date the complaint was filed, she
19 was a resident of the State of Florida.

20 7. Defendant Giles lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the
21 truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph 7 and on that basis, denies the
22 allegations.

23 8. Defendant Giles re-states and incorporates her responses to
24 paragraphs 1 through 7.

25 9. Defendant Giles lacks sufficient information to form a belief as to the
26 truth of the allegations set forth in paragraph 9 and on that basis, denies the
27 allegations.

28 10. The allegations set forth in paragraph 10 are admitted.

1 11. The allegations set forth in paragraph 11 are admitted.

2 12. The allegations set forth in paragraph 12 are denied.

3 13. The allegations set forth in paragraph 13 are denied, except that

4 Defendant Giles admits that she and Defendant O'Keefe had a conversation with
5 plaintiff.

6 14. The allegations set forth in paragraph 14 are denied, except that
7 Defendant Giles states that Defendant O'Keefe asked whether their conversation
8 with plaintiff would be kept confidential and she asked whether the conversation
9 was being recorded by plaintiff.

10 15. The allegations set forth in paragraph 15 are denied, except that
11 Defendant Giles admits that Defendant O'Keefe had videotaped employees of
12 other ACORN offices in California and other states and that she had accompanied
13 him on the visits to such other offices.

14 16. Defendant Giles re-states and incorporates her responses to
15 paragraphs 1 through 15.

16 17. Paragraph 17 is a statement of plaintiff's legal position or contentions,
17 to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a response is required,
18 Defendant Giles denies the allegations set forth in paragraph 17 for want of
19 knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth thereof.

20 18. Paragraph 18 is a statement of plaintiff's legal position or contentions,
21 to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a response is required,
22 Defendant Giles denies the allegations set forth in paragraph 18 for want of
23 knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth thereof.

24 19. Paragraph 19 is a statement of plaintiff's legal position or contentions,
25 to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a response is required,
26 Defendant Giles denies the allegations set forth in paragraph 19.

27 20. Paragraph 20 is a statement of plaintiff's legal position or contentions,
28 to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a response is required,

1 Defendant Giles states that Section 632(a) of the California Penal Code provides,
 2 "Every person who, intentionally and without the consent of all parties to a
 3 confidential communication, by means of any electronic amplifying or recording
 4 device, eavesdrops upon or records the confidential communication, whether the
 5 communication is carried on among the parties in the presence of one another or by
 6 means of a telegraph, telephone, or other device, except a radio, shall be punished
 7 by a fine not exceeding two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500), or
 8 imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one year, or in the state prison, or by
 9 both that fine and imprisonment."

10 21. Paragraph 21 is a statement of plaintiff's legal position or contentions,
 11 to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a response is required,
 12 Defendant Giles states that Section 637.2 provides, "Any person who has been
 13 injured by a violation of this chapter may bring an action against the person who
 14 committed the violation."

15 22. Paragraph 22 is a statement of plaintiff's legal position or contentions,
 16 to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a response is required,
 17 Defendant Giles states that Section 632(c) provides, "The term 'confidential
 18 communication' includes any communication carried on in circumstances as may
 19 reasonably indicate that any party to the communication desires it to be confined to
 20 the parties thereto, but excludes a communication made in a public gathering or in
 21 any legislative, judicial, executive or administrative proceeding open to the public,
 22 or in any other circumstance in which the parties to the communication may
 23 reasonably expect that the communication may be overheard or recorded."

24 23. Paragraph 23 is a statement of plaintiff's legal position or contentions,
 25 to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a response is required,
 26 Defendant Giles denies the allegations set forth in paragraph 23.

27 24. Paragraph 24 is a statement of plaintiff's legal position or contentions,
 28 to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a response is required,

1 Defendant Giles denies the allegations set forth in paragraph 24 for want of
 2 knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth thereof.

3 25. Paragraph 25 is a statement of plaintiff's legal position or contentions,
 4 to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a response is required,
 5 Defendant Giles denies the allegations set forth in paragraph 25.

6 26. Paragraph 26 is a statement of plaintiff's legal position or contentions,
 7 to which no response is necessary. To the extent that a response is required,
 8 Defendant Giles denies the allegations set forth in paragraph 26.

9 27. The allegations set forth in paragraph 27 are denied, except that
 10 Defendant Giles states that Defendant O'Keefe recorded Plaintiff and that she was
 11 present during such recording.

12 28. The allegations set forth in paragraph 28 are denied.

13 29. The allegations set forth in paragraph 29 are denied.

14 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

16 This answering defendant presently has insufficient knowledge or
 17 information on which to form a belief as to whether there may be additional, as yet,
 18 unstated separate defenses available. This answering defendant reserves therefore
 19 the right to assert additional defenses in the event that discovery indicates they
 20 would be appropriate.

22 **FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

23 30. Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be
 24 granted.

26 **SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

27 31. Plaintiff's Complaint is barred in whole or in part by Defendant
 28 Giles's federal and state constitutional rights of free speech and freedom of the

1 press, including without limitation under the First Amendment of the United States
2 Constitution.

4 **THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

5 32. Plaintiff's damages, if any, were not caused by Defendant Giles and
6 are not attributable to the acts or omissions of Defendant Giles.

8 **FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

9 33. Plaintiff's Complaint is barred in whole or in part by plaintiff's
10 unclean hands.

12 **PRAYER**

13 WHEREFORE Defendant prays that:

14 Plaintiff takes nothing by reason of the Complaint, and that the Court enter
15 judgment in favor of Defendant;

16 Defendant be awarded the costs incurred in the defense of this suit; and

17 Defendant be awarded such other and further relief as this Court deems just
18 and proper.

20 Dated: December 17, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

21 WILMER CUTLER PICKERING HALE &
DORR LLP

23 By /s/ Benjamin Powell

24 Attorney for Defendant HANNAH GILES

25 Email: benjamin.powell@wilmerhale.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 17th day of December, 2010, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was electronically filed with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which will then send a notification of such filing (NEF) to the following:

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2 /s/ Benjamin Powell
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